



# Children & Family Justice Center PROJECT UPDATE



Partnering with you for children, families and communities

ISSUE 1 January 2013

## Thank You Voters!

On August 7, 2012, King County voters approved the construction of a new Children and Family Justice Center to replace the aging Youth Services Center at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street. The existing facility is well past the end of its useful life and no longer meets King County's justice needs. "We will be able to solve efficiency concerns caused by courtroom and lobby overcrowding in the current building," said Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard McDermott, "and the new facility will have the space to provide modern juvenile and family justice services proven to produce positive outcomes". Replacing the facility has been the County's highest priority capital project since 2008.



*King County Youth Services Center and its mural "Making Choices" by Nhon K. Truong.*

"King County voters should be proud of the commitment they have made to best deliver justice services to youth and their families," said King County Executive Dow Constantine.



"A new center will better protect the safety of youth who must be detained there, and provide room for modern

approaches that move young people out of the criminal-justice system and provide help for families" said King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg. "The current building does not allow us to employ practices we know work better."

## We need your help to create a state-of-the-art Children and Family Justice Center

King County is developing a public involvement process to help create a safe, effective and efficient Children and Family Justice Center that includes features that will help the surrounding neighborhood thrive. The \$210 million project will consolidate youth and family court services and support programs, expand and replace the current deteriorating court and juvenile detention facilities, and create a civic campus that will benefit the community and neighborhood.

## 2013 PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

### January

- Facilities programming consultant hired
- Initial outreach to identify issues and stakeholders
- Request proposals to select a communication consultant

### February-March

- Outreach to community and stakeholders

### March-April

- Advisory committees forming
- First community meeting or workshop
- Design team selection process begins

### May

- Advisory committees briefed
- Design team selection process continues
- Second community meeting or workshop

### June-July

- Advisory committees briefed
- Project team selected

### July-end of year

- Project team begins schematic design of Justice Center and site
- Advisory committees briefed
- Community meeting
- Feedback shapes schematic design

## Your voice counts

Public involvement for the new Justice Center will be based on the principle that better decisions and outcomes result from involving the public. The public involvement plan will use methods to both communicate information to, and gather information from, the general public, criminal justice professionals, clients, service providers, advocacy organizations, neighbors and other interested groups.

# King County Children and Family Justice Center Project

## Preliminary site design objectives

1. Build a new Justice Center that is compatible with the needs of King County and the community
2. Stimulate growth of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable neighborhood
3. Support neighborhood plans, policies and aesthetics
4. Enhance pedestrian mobility and reconnect Squire Park and First Hill
5. Create an environment for a diverse and thriving street life
6. Provide usable, accessible community space



### Key EXISTING CONDITIONS

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Courthouse          | <b>4</b> Detention facility |
| <b>2</b> Loading and service | <b>P</b> Surface parking    |
| <b>3</b> "Whale Fin" artwork |                             |

## Justice Center working concept facts

Site	9.1 acres
Courthouse	137,700 sq. ft. 10 Courtrooms
Detention Center	96,600 sq. ft. 154 dorm rooms
Estimated Cost	\$210 million
Parking	Garage with approximately 440 stalls



### Key CONCEPT PLAN

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b> Private Development | <span style="color: red;">—</span> Ground-Level Commercial Frontage     |
| <b>2</b> Loading and Service | <span style="color: yellow;">—</span> Ground-Level Residential Frontage |
| <b>3</b> Community Space     | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> Important Connecting Routes         |
| <b>P</b> Parking Structure   | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> EVA/Pedestrian Only                 |

## Facility design objectives

1. Create court space to collocate programs and services for families and youth
2. Provide onsite screening, assessment and linkages to community-based social and treatment services
3. Provide an accessible community meeting place to support juvenile justice goals and enhance civic life
4. Build a safe and efficient detention center with adaptability to changing needs
5. Provide a safe and secure court environment
6. Improve facility accessibility in terms of transportation, parking and internal way finding



## ***Onsite programs and services to support families and youth***

The new Children and Family Justice Center will provide space for the range of services needed for juveniles and their families. This will allow for immediate connection of youth and families to community services required by the court. Some notable programs at the Youth Center are:



- Partnership for Youth Justice provides alternatives to the judicial process for minor offenses and first-time offenders
- Education and employment training provides options for youth on probation
- Family Treatment Court provides access to drug abuse treatment, parenting skills and on-going case management to parents who need it
- Alternatives to Juvenile Justice help law enforcement find resources for youth and families in crisis
- Juvenile Justice 101 helps families understand the basics of the court system including how to find needed community resources and one-on-one support
- Dependency 101 helps parents involved in child welfare cases navigate the judicial system
- Juvenile Drug Court provides a suspended prosecution and intensive treatment program for juveniles whose offense is in part due to their chemical abuse/dependency
- Parent-for-Parent Program provides parents involved in child welfare cases the opportunity to learn from the experience of parents in other cases
- Dependency CASA Program provides a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to represent the best interests of the child in abuse and neglect cases
- Evidence based programs proven to address the most serious problems facing juvenile offenders

Due to the success of the many programs designed to provide alternatives to incarceration and reduction of youth recidivism, the new detention facility will be smaller in size than the existing facility.

## **Phase I Public Involvement**

Internal and external advisory committees will be formed. Membership will include a representative of major stakeholder groups.



## **New Justice Center will unify juvenile and family law activities**

Currently, King County Superior Court operates courtrooms for juvenile matters at the Youth Services Center at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street. Family Law matters for the north part of the county are handled at the King County Courthouse at 3rd Avenue and James St.

Construction of the Children and Family Justice Center represents the first step toward unifying all juvenile and family law matters involving children in north King County.



***New!***

## **Project Open House**

**March 16, 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.**

Youth Service Center

See website for details



***Partnering with  
you for children,  
families and  
communities***

**Check for project updates at**

***[www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice](http://www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice)***

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